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PRESS RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Nancy J. Neuzil, Frankfort School District 157-C Public Relations Coordinator, 815-469-9235, [njneuzil@aol.com](mailto:njneuzil@aol.com)

### **District 157-C May 20, 2015 Board of Education Meeting Recap**

The regular Frankfort School District 157-C Board of Education meeting of May 20 was called to order by Board President Gina Briese at 7:00 p.m. The Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Hickory Creek Middle School Show Choir led by Leslie Walton performed two songs to the delight of the Board members, staff and parents in attendance at the Board meeting. Superintendent Dr. Maura Zinni welcomed them to the meeting, stating "Our special guests just finished participating in four performances of the Spring Musical, "Mary Poppins" and they were phenomenal."

Three people signed up to speak during the Public Forum portion of the meeting. Michelle Freeland and Cory Singer requested that the Board consider implementing a strings program and student orchestra. Sheila Hurley discussed Occupational Therapist and Physical Therapist positions in the district. Board President Gina Briese thanked them for coming and showing their support.

The Board approved the open session minutes of the regular meeting of April 29, 2015.

Grand Prairie Elementary School Principal Eileen Nelson reported that many learning opportunities for students are available this month both in and out of the classroom. The Enrichment Learning Center is housing tadpoles, glo-fish, frogs, geckos, a turtle and butterflies for the students who love to observe and experience the varied life cycles. In addition a variety of planned field trips have been taking place, including visits to Magic Meadow Farm, Fort Frankfort, the Rialto and the Zoo, complete with a tour of the Butterfly exhibit. Mrs. Nelson also reported that the school has been working on fluency and that 79% of first graders and 80% of second graders have met the goals.

Chelsea Intermediate School Principal Kristin Simpkins reported that the fifth grade students participated in a Step-Up at Hickory Creek Middle School with the staff doing an excellent job of welcoming them and preparing them for the transition to their new building. The Chelsea staff welcomed the second grade students during their Step-Up Day on May 20. Mrs. Simpkins reported that all four units of Writer's Workshop have been implemented. She also reported that exceptional scores came back to the school on the 5Essentials survey. She stated, "It has been a great year."

Hickory Creek Middle School Principal Dr. Kevin Suchinski reported that in conjunction with the eighth Grade Career Unit, 25 students were selected to attend a tour of the WGN studios and view a taping of the WGN news show. He also reported that students and staff will be participating in an End of the Year Celebration

Assembly on May 29. It will highlight student achievements this year, as well as celebrate the outstanding work of the teachers. In addition, students will participate in a presentation by Dr. Gary Smit that focuses on instilling Touchstones of Character. Dr. Suchinski reminded the Board that graduation is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m. at Lincoln-Way North High School. He also reported that 1600 people came to the recent "Mary Poppins" Spring Musical. He commended teachers Leslie Walton and Doug Adams for the wonderful job they did with the students preparing for the Musical.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence reported that informational meetings were held to outline the changes in the current Gifted/Everest program and the new model that will replace it. Feedback was very positive about the new honors English Language Arts (ELA) classes at Hickory Creek and advanced ELA classes at Chelsea that are set to begin in the fall. She also reported that the Lincoln-Way Area Curriculum Council met to discuss vertical teams in Social Science. Both Lincoln-Way teachers as well as Hickory Creek Middle School teachers find these teams very valuable so that the transition from middle school to high school is seamless. Mrs. McClarence also reported that English Language Learner (ELL) teacher Shelby Baty has done an excellent job this year with the students learning English at all three schools. She reported that the program was monitored by the state and the students are progressing very well.

Director of Special Services Jen Bajda reported that the Illinois State Board of Education stating the Preschool for All program at Grand Prairie Elementary School has achieved in ExceleRate Illinois the Silver Circle of Quality. ExceleRate unifies all of the state's early learning programs under a common set of standards across multiple settings to provide families with important information about quality early learning programs in their community.

Director of Technology Jake Nelson reported that the end of the year Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing has been completed. He stated, "Everyone did an amazing job of administering this test." He also reported that the Technology Team will begin the project of removing and replacing the computers at Hickory Creek Middle School over the summer.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Maura J. Zinni updated the Board with a staffing report. She commended the Preschool for All program at Grand Prairie Elementary School for its Silver Circle of Quality rating. Dr. Zinni congratulated Director of Curriculum & Instruction Janet McClarence and Hickory Creek Middle School Principal Dr. Kevin Suchinski for being recognized with the LW210 Community Extra Effort Recognition Award. This award is given to thank them for their extra effort in contributing to the academic and social growth of all Lincoln-Way District students. Dr. Zinni reported that all three Hickory Middle School choirs earned Superior Division I ratings at the IGSMA State Choral Contest. Hickory Creek was the only school to have three choirs (Varsity Chorus, Advanced Choir, and Show Choir) and qualify for the state competition. In addition, the Show Choir earned perfect scores from two out of three judges. Dr. Zinni reported that the joint annual conference of IASB/IASA/IASBO will be held Friday, November 20 through Sunday, November 22, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago and Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers. Dr. Zinni also reminded the Board of the End of Year Celebration to be held on Friday, May 29, 2015 at CD & ME from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. At this event the District will

be recognizing staff retirements as well as saying farewell to the outgoing Board of Education members and the administrators.

Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with the Treasurer's Report. Board bills for April totaled \$1,846,480.78. He reported that this is slightly below normal for April by a few hundred thousand dollars, as the normal and expected range is \$2.0 to \$2.25M. This is primarily due to lower utility costs (the result of the energy/utility management program), lower benefit costs (primarily health insurance costs) and reduced discretionary spending as the district approaches year-end.

The Board heard a report from next year's Family School Partnership (FSP) President Tina Kohler. She reported that the organization is planning some new fundraising projects for next year. She said the group wants to provide a better understanding of exactly what it does for the schools and students and that they need more volunteers to work on the programs and projects.

Superintendent Dr. Maura Zinni reported that the Education Foundation's third annual golf outing at Prestwick Country Club will be held on July 13. The event is \$155 per person including 18 holes of golf, cart, forecaddie per foursome, box lunch and dinner. All funds raised will be used to support grants in the classroom for District 157-C students. Information is with Jennifer Dore, 815-557-1909.

The Board heard a report from Dr. Zinni on the Lincoln-Way Area Special Education District 843 Governing Board meeting of April 30.

There were four Freedom of Information Requests.

In discussion, the Board heard a report from Dr. Zinni regarding the need for an increase in social work services at Grand Prairie from .5 to .7 FTE and an increase in psychology services from .8 to 1.0 FTE at Chelsea.

In discussion, the Board heard a report from Dr. Zinni regarding the timeline for securing Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy service providers.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided a report on the District's Worker's Compensation Insurance Renewal. He stated, "This is good news as it means we will have a reduction in premium costs."

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided a report on the asphalt sealcoating necessary at Hickory Creek Middle School as part of the District's regular preventative maintenance program.

In discussion, Assistant Superintendent Curt Saindon provided the Board with a tentative budget update.

The Board took action to approve the bills as presented.

The Board accepted the resignation of Barbara Borden, Library Clerk at Grand Prairie Elementary School, effective June 4, 2015 as presented.

The Board accepted the resignation of Beth Pesavento, psychologist at Chelsea Intermediate School, effective June 4, 2015 as presented.

The Board accepted the resignation of Dana Goldschnikl, full-time special education teacher at Hickory Creek Middle School, effective June 4, 2015 as presented.

The Board took action to approve the employment of Barbara Borden as a Full-Time ELC/Technology Teacher (BA + 0, Step 3) at Grand Prairie Elementary School for the 2015-2016 school year contingent upon the receipt and evaluation of employment documentation required by District 157-C and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Board took action to approve the following 2015 summer help as presented: Bonnie Deval, Clerical, at an hourly rate of \$15.75, Dawn Davis, Technology, at an hourly rate of \$19.07, Alex Popek, Technology, at an hourly rate of \$16.49, Christopher Scott, Custodial, at an hourly rate of \$9.00, Thomas Cotta, Custodial, at an hourly rate of \$8.75, Nicole Nepote, Custodial, at an hourly rate of \$8.75, Logan Newman, Custodial, at an hourly rate of \$8.50 and Payton Lang, Custodial, at an hourly rate of \$8.50.

The Board accepted the retirement of Donna Wherley, full-time paraprofessional at Chelsea Intermediate School, effective June 4, 2015 as presented.

The Board approved an increase of 0.2 FTE in social work and psychology services respectively.

The Board approved the renewal with the Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust (ICRMT) for the District's worker's compensation insurance coverage as presented by the Ryan Insurance Group, effective for the July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 plan year, for estimated annual premiums of \$132,886 (subject to verification via an annual payroll audit). These premiums reflect a \$16,592 (11%) decrease over this year's premiums.

The Board approved the selection of Pavement Systems, Inc. of Blue Island, IL to complete this summer's asphalt work at Hickory Creek Middle School for a price of \$45,155. This work should be completed during the months of June and/or July, weather permitting, and paid for out of the existing Operations and Maintenance Fund capital projects budget.

The Board went into closed session to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance and/or dismissal of specific employees; student discipline; student residency; student issue; reclassification of employees; and pending litigation.

The Board returned to open session.

The Board accepted the resignation of Doriane Woods, assistant principal at Chelsea Intermediate School as presented.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

The next regular District 157-C Board of Education meeting will be held on June 17 at 7:00 p.m. at Grand Prairie Elementary School, 10482 West Nebraska Street in Frankfort, Illinois.